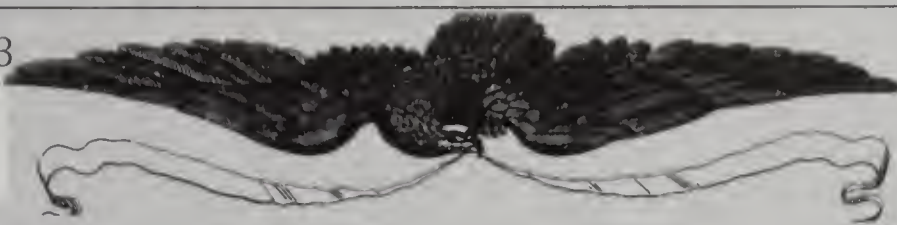

JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Volume 10, #3

Fall 1998

VOL 9
3



1905 Micro-0 Dime



*From Michael Fey
Photo by Bill Fivaz*



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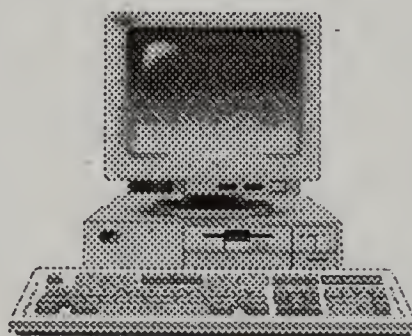


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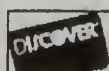
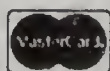
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JOURNAL OF THE
BARBER COIN COLLECTORS' SOCIETY

Published quarterly. Dedicated to bringing together people with similar interests in Barber Coinage for the purpose of advancing appreciation of this series.

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-

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BCCS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Fall issue of the *Journal*. The first news to relate is that of the ANA Convention in Portland, Oregon. I felt the convention was up to measure for an ANA and Portland was a friendly city. The Barber Society annual meeting was most interesting and productive. Nearly 20 members and guests were present. Reports concerning membership, treasury and the *Journal* were presented on behalf of Paul and Russell.

Guest James Taylor presented information on the forthcoming Independent Coin Grading Co. Additionally, dealer/guest Larry Briggs presented information on the grading company he has founded. I see each of these operations highly focused on grading coins for the collector. Apparently, the efforts of NGC and PCGS to align themselves more directly with collectors is not judged as entirely a success. To guard against (dealer) favoritism, ICG will establish a first line Certified Public Accountant firm to receive coins and deliver these unidentified-as-to-source to the graders. It will be interesting to see how these new firms compete against the established ones.

We had an interesting and lively discussion on Barber varieties. This is always a topic of keen interest to many, though not all, members. A consensus view argued for the establishment of a **VARIETY COORDINATOR**. This position is open and available for an interested member. I believe there would be an advantage of overseeing the discoveries of members in this position along with compiling (in some fashion) reports of members' finds! I would ask any individual remotely interested in varieties to consider this role and discuss specifics with Russell.

Please read carefully the following message from my good friend Dave Lawrence and reflect on the meaning of numismatics in knowing wonderful people.

Phil Carrigan

MY ILLNESS

By Dave Lawrence

As some of you know, I was diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's Disease) about a year and a half ago. This is a neuromuscular illness where your muscles degenerate, but your mind, eyes, hearing and other sense organs are largely unaffected. I come to work every day and consult with my son John, but he runs the business now (and very well too). My speech is affected, so I don't talk on the phone much, and I also can't come to many coin shows anymore (I did spend a day at FUN and I try to make all the Baltimore conventions).

I probably will continue to write articles for our Web Site (davidlawrence.com), Coin World and the CDN Monthly Supplement – just as soon as the ALS book I'm compiling is finished. As to the Barber book revisions that's still up in the air (but John and I figure we'll probably find a way to do them).

Of course, I miss traveling around the country and talking Barbers with all of you at the shows. If any of you would like to "talk" Barbers you can e-mail me at: dlrc@concentric.net. I check my e-mail daily.

Dave



FROM THE EDITOR

The summers heat is behind us as the fall colors paint the landscape, and the crisp weather brings the autumn season alive.

Regular contributing editor Chris Weeks is stepping down because of increasing demands on his time. On behalf of the society, I want to thank Chris for his interesting and well written articles that we all enjoyed. Not having two regular contributing members, who I can count on for articles, puts your editor in a difficult position. Please consider committing to this position, and drop me a letter.

The New England Numismatic convention held this past September was well attended, with nearly every dealer expressing satisfaction with the sale of collector coins. Barber coins were well represented in G to Fine, tho XF to AU dimes and halves were limited, Barber quarters were abundant. I purchased four nice AU quarters, the best of which was an 1892-O with nice frosty surfaces. Some nice colonial coins were available, tho many were expensive. For those with an interest in colonials you will find my most recent article in Bowers, "Rare Coin Review" #125 informative.

I was surprised to meet many BCCS members on the bourse floor on Friday. Each took a few minutes to introduce themselves and explain their Barber interests, before scurrying off in search of coin treasures. Some BCCS members left on Friday, while others like Mike Jurek were busy with their tables, and unable to attend our meeting on Saturday. We had a small group that talked about numerous topics, with John Frost displaying a wonderful matched set of Barber quarters in XF to AU that he has been assembling over the past three years for a client.

This convention contained a large number of exhibits outside the bourse floor that were well displayed, interesting, and a credit to collectors every where. After attending the NENA meeting I began the 2.5 hour trek home. This was a very enjoyable convention, and I'm already looking forward to next years, I hope to meet you there. My last coin show this year will be in November, in Burlington, VT. Then winters icy grip and white shroud will cover the country side allowing me ample time for hours of numismatic research and writing.

Happy Collecting, *Russell Easterbrooks*

THE JOURNAL NEEDS YOUR ARTICLES!

If you've got some information to share with our Society,
we'd like to publish it. Our Society needs your input!
Send your articles and information for the Barber Bits section, to;
Russell at the address, on page one.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS DECEMBER 15th



MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARY/TREASURER

In the last year, several members expressed an interest in getting together with fellow Barber collectors in their general area. The problem being that they didn't know who these collectors were but would like the Society to furnish names.

While this sounds like a nice idea, it does present problems. Many members prefer anonymity and use post office boxes for security purposes. Talking with Phil and Russell we felt that it would be beyond the scope of the Society to canvas members on this matter and then try to get the results to the interested parties. Evidently, belonging to local clubs and attending local shows is still the best way to locate Barber friends.

On another subject, our only member from Italy has renewed his membership and ordered some back issues. He said in his letter that he finds Barbers in various coin shows that he attends. Among his recent finds are a 1892-S dime in F12 found in an Italian show and a 1901-O quarter in VF-EF found at a show in Barcelona, Spain.

He says his quarter set in fine to extra fine is almost complete only needing to upgrade his 1897-S, his 1901-S and his 1913-S. Evidently ordering from U.S. dealers is not an option as the coins have a way of disappearing so he must find what he needs at shows. We wish him well.

Paul Reuter



BCCS ADVERTISEMENT RATES

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| $\frac{1}{8}$ page | 1 issue | \$12 | 4 issues | \$40 |
| $\frac{1}{4}$ page | 1 issue | \$20 | 4 issues | \$70 |
| $\frac{1}{2}$ page | 1 issue | \$30 | 4 issues | \$100 |
| 1 page | 1 issue | \$70 | 4 issues | \$250 |
| 1 page inside front or rear cover | 1 issue | \$80 | 4 issues | \$300 |
| 1 page outside rear cover | 1 issue | \$125 | 4 issues | \$400 |

MY 1892 MICRO-O HALF

.....
by Daniel Mulvey

I am a member of the Barber Coin Collectors Society and I would like to share a recent purchase of a rare Barber Half that I made. Before I do that, I want to say that I began to collect coins as a young boy in the mid 1960s. I did not have a lot of money at the time, but I collected coins out of circulation such as silver, worn buffalo nickels, and wheat pennies. The only key coin I bought back then was a 1916d Mercury dime in fine condition. I spent approximately \$150.00 for it which took a long time to save, and I still have this coin today. I continued to collect until 1971, the year I started high school.

My interest in coins was always with me but I never pursued it because of other commitments and responsibilities. In the late 1980s I picked up one of the coin magazines in a local grocery store. I looked through it and could not believe the astronomical prices they were asking for some of them. Furthermore I had no knowledge of MS 60, 63, 65, etc... I put the magazine back and that was the end of my interest for the time being.

My interest in coin collecting was rekindled in December 1992 when I was asked to look at some coins that had belonged to a deceased relative. There was nothing there of any significance, just usual common date older coins. For some reason just the fact of handling these coins caused me to want to begin collecting again. Furthermore I now had some extra money to spend. I began to collect various series with no real direction of what I was doing. The saying of "buy the book before the coin", is very true. I cannot stress that saying enough. I would have saved a little money and more importantly learned so much from reading about coins.

I went to local coin shows and visited a small town coin shop to make purchases. I also bought coins in the mail from ads I saw in coin magazines. That was a big mistake as far as I am concerned unless you know the dealer. I did see some Barber pieces and they were usually well worn. As you know the high grade coins were and still are very expensive, so I was not really interested in that series. I was buying Liberty nickels, though I did not realize Charles Barber was the designer.

After reading countless coin magazines and papers I began to gain a little interest in Barber halves, quarters and dimes. I learned that some of these coins seems to be fairly inexpensive given some of the low mintage's and the fact they were heavily circulated for about fifty to sixty years.

The first Barber I bought was from a dealer in Middletown, NY. It was a PCGS G6 1913s Barber Quarter for \$335.00 which was a little high I thought for 1994. This coin has full rims both on the obverse and reverse and has nice detail and full "L" and "Y" in Liberty along with a partial I and T. I am quite sure

if I were to resubmit this coin it would come back a VG8 given the fact they have appeared to lower grading standards for the key date coins. I saw this coin at a show on a Sunday but did not buy it because I did not know anything about it. On the way home I thought about the coin and when I looked it up and saw this coin had a mintage of 40,000, I realized that this was one of the three key Barber quarters. I called the dealer the next day and they still had the coin, so I bought it.

Compared to key dates and mintage's of other series, such as the 1877 Indian Head penny and the 1916d Mercury Dime, etc... Barber keys and semi keys are underpriced as well as understated as far as I am concerned. If the Barber series ever takes off the coins would be very expensive to purchase in all grades. I will save my Barber collecting experiences for another article.

In August of 1998 I saw an ad in Numismatic News for a PCGS G4 1892 Micro O half dollar. I got this paper from a friend so it was about two weeks old. This ad was placed by a dealer from Lakewood, CO. I figured that this coin was already sold so I was not going to call but did anyway. You have no idea how happy I was to hear him say he still had the coin. As he described the coin to me I was feeling like a kid in a candy store. We negotiated a price and I bought the coin.

I would like to describe the coin for my fellow Barber Coin collectors. This is a problem free original circulated coin, a nice silver Grey color. The obverse has a full complete rim and the tops of all the denticles show. The complete Y and a small section of the top of the "T" and the bottom corner of the "L" in Liberty still show. As far as I am concerned the obverse in a definite G6.

The reverse is a different story. As you know the reverse was not struck evenly or as strong as the obverse. From what I have read and seen the right side of the reverse is typically weaker than the left. Half of the reverse rim is complete, including the tops of the denticles, from the bottom of DOL in DOLLAR clockwise to the top of D in UNITED. Continuing clockwise the rim becomes soft and is gone above the letters TATES of STATES. The reverse lettering begins to wear beginning on top of the E and half way through the S in STATES. The words OF AMERICA are two-thirds worn away. The words HALF DOLLAR and UNITED are com-



Photo courtesy of Bowers and Merena

plete. Half of the motto, "E Pluribus Unum" shows. A little less than half of the vertical lines in the eagle's shield show. The eagle is completely outlined with the exception of the right wing tip. I am very happy to own this coin and would buy another if I had the opportunity to do so.

From what I read in Breen's encyclopedia there are only four to six known of the micro O. This was in 1988 as the last I read about twenty or twenty five are known. I would like to know what the population reports are for this coin. Maybe someone can write an article on that.

In closing I enjoy collecting the Barber series and look forward to many more years of doing so. I would also like to thank Dave Lawrence for encouraging me to join the BCCS. I like reading the articles and it keeps my interest going in the series. ♦

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TWO VARIETIES OF THE 1905 o MICRO “o” BARBER DIME

by Michael S. Fey

Although I am a new member of the BCCS, and perhaps more known for collecting Top 100 Morgan Dollar varieties, I can't help but appreciate the beauty and rarity of Barber coins.

As I read Jack White's article on *Barbers You Don't See Anymore* (Vol. 9, #1, 1998), I took special note of his mention of the 1905 o Micro o as a coin that doesn't show up too often. I was even more surprised to see it rated R7 in XF/AU by the BCCS (Vol 9, #2, 1998).

In the last couple of years, I was fortunate to acquire two examples of the 1905 o Micro o Barber dime certified by NGC as AU58. After purchasing the first, I asked my good friend and fellow BCCS member Carl Feldman to research past issues of the BCCS to see if there was any more information on the coin. He cited Joe Haney's article in the Spring, 1990 issue, reporting that there were two different obverses found on the 1905 o Micro o Barber dime. So, I started looking for a 1905 o Micro o Barber dime with a different obverse.

My search ended a few months ago with the acquisition of the second AU58, this time with a different obverse. Bill Fivaz was kind enough to take photos of the major pick-up-point to illustrate the different obverses. To my knowledge, this is the first time photos of these obverses have been published.

The photo of the Die 1 obverse (Photo 1) shows the “1” in the date pointing to the “B” of Barber's initial on the portrait. The photo of the Die 2 obverse (Photo 2) shows the “1” in the date pointing to the right of the “B” of Barber's initial on the portrait. Photo 3 illustrates the micro “o” mint mark of the same die that both varieties share.

I wrote Mr. Haney twice in the hope of getting some handle on the relative rarity of the Die 1 1905 o Micro o as compared to Die 2. However, I never received a response.

If anyone has such data, I would appreciate a call at (973-252-4000) or E-mail (feymas@aol.com). Otherwise, let me know which die(s) you have, I'll compile the data and report it in a later issue of the *Journal*. It just may be possible that one of these varieties is *ultra rare*. ❖

Editors Note: It would be interesting to know which die is the most common. Your editor has #4 1905 Micro-o dimes, #1 is Die #1, and #3 are Die #2. Please let Michael or myself know which die type you have for a future report in the journal.



Photo 1:
1905 o Micro o
Barber Dime
Obverse Die 1:
"1" Points to
the "B"



Photo 2:
1905 o Micro o
Barber Dime
Obverse Die 2:
"1" Points to
the Right
of "B"



Photo 3:
1905 o Micro o
Barber Dime
Mint Mark
Reverse

BARBERS OF 1902

By Jack White

1902 Barber coins have always lacked a glarnour coin among them. The preceding years of 1901 has numerous marqué coins, with the famous 1901-S quarter leading the way. The San Francisco mint dime and half dollar have always been semi-keys of their particular series. Likewise the New Orleans mint quarter is also a series semi-key. In the area of varieties the 1901-O dime with a repunched horizontal mint mark is among the most sought after of Barber varieties. The following year, 1903, has the San Francisco mint dime as a true series key in all but the lowest grades. The Philadelphia mint half dollar has recently acquired "sleeper" status as an undervalued Barber coin. But what of 1902? Do Barber collectors simply pass this year aside and concentrate their efforts elsewhere?

Thanks to the new variety field of misplaced dates, a coin with at least one stray digit or part of one, near the date area, the year 1902 appears to be one ripe for locating these curious newly found varieties. I have located three different MPD's in the past six months for the year 1902, two of them unpublished to my knowledge.

The first is on a Philly mint quarter. There is a bold digit in the denticles below the "0" and "2" of the date. My coin grades very fine and is listed in the new reference text on the subject of MPD's.

The other two coins are Philly mint dimes, both of which grade about uncirculated. The first coin has the top of a "9" and an "0" boldly prominent in the denticles below the date, particularly the "0". A stronger misplaced digit on a dime sized coin would be hard to imagine.

The second Philadelphia mint dime has numerous variety characteristics. Grading slider uncirculated, it has traces of clashing from the reverse wreath just below the "E" in "STATES" on the obverse, with stronger clashing visible on the reverse of Miss Liberty's chin, mouth, nose, and forehead. This form of clashing can be found on other dates of Barber dimes as well. There are three obverse rim cud's on the coin's left side. The digits on the denticles appear to be in the same location as the previously mentioned coin, though not quite as strong. This is probably a later die state, the obverse cud's being an indication of this.

I have a possible fourth MPD of 1902. It's a New Orleans dime, that appears to have a digit in the denticles as well, centered between the "9" and "0". However, since the coin grades only a strong fine, I hesitate to declare it absolutely as a misplaced date.

Don't overlook 1902 in your search of Barbers. Like the years 1906 and 1908, both of which have prominent and numerous MPD's, 1902 seems to be a great date to search. ❖

THREE YEARS INTO THE HUNT

By John Flanagan

I love Barber Quarters!

As with many enthusiasts, the love of Barber coins (in my case, quarters) began many years ago in my youth. With children grown and gone, and a golf game that never quite improves, it seemed entirely natural that I would return to a love from the early days... Barber Quarters.

Like Chip Dean (Spring 1998 *BCCS Journal*), I set out to build an AU set. After three years I still need 6 coins to complete my AU set, and many of the final six should have been easy for me to locate... but have proved to be anything but. I have generally been looking for certified AU-58 coins.. to make the challenge all the more interesting!

The keys have proved to be relatively easy. The 96-S and 13-S have been acquired in PCGS AU-55, while the 01-S is a very lightly cleaned AU-55/58 that was provided to me by David Lawrence – the Dean of Barber Coinage, and friend and advisor to boot! The 09-O is a 55 – a stunning beauty that I feel lucky to have acquired.

So, what are the stumbling blocks to completing the set if the acknowledged keys are behind me? Well, Barber fans... would you believe the 1896, 1897-S, 1898, 1899-O, 1904, and 1911-S? OK, the 97-S and 11-S have reasonable rarity ratings to explain their absence in the market, but the 1896-P, 1898-P, and 1904-P?

This is a tough series to complete in high-end AU! I will admit to having been impatient and to acquiring the “missing six”, in lower, and sometimes in higher (MS) grades. However, the truth is I still want the missing AU’s. That means the substitutes are but “fillers”, awaiting the day when they can be replaced with their cousins – certified AU-58’s of pleasing strike and beauty!!

Here is an interesting observation that I have recently been pondering: Is it me or is there a growing absence of AU material on the market for really all but the most common dates? It seems supply is drying up... while prices (to buy) remain relatively flat. This is a situation that appears ripe for change.

In the Spring 1998 issue, Chip Dean asked BCCS members to reflect upon the responsibility of collectors having completed his or her collection. This is a problem that I would like to have and to that end Chip, I’d love to acquire any AU-58’s in the dates I need as well as your 96-S in AU-50. You see – I just love Barber Quarters! ♦



BARBERS IN ALBANY, OREGON

By Michael Williams

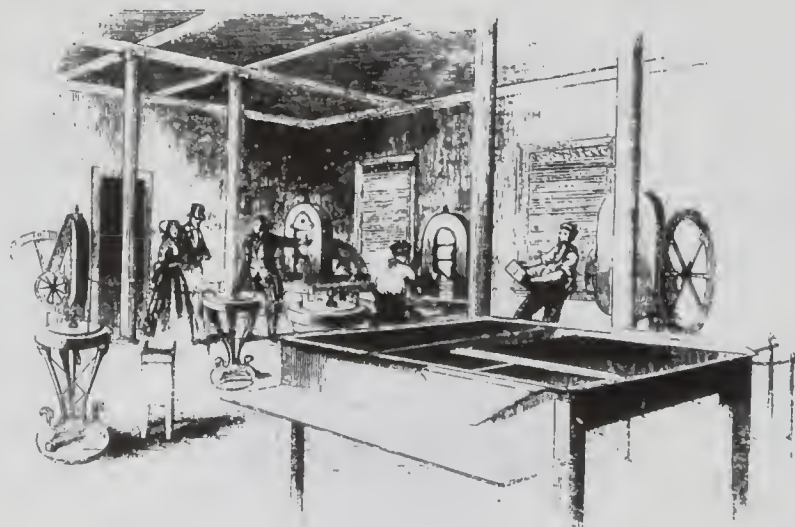
The annual coin show in Albany, OR (late March, early April) has often been a source of semi-scarce Barber material for me. This is a small show. Maybe there were 15-18 dealers set up this year. Not necessarily the scene one would expect to find scarcer items. However, as we know, surprises in numismatics is one of the attractions. The thrill of the hunt is a magic attribute of coin collecting!

I'm sure that I spent an hour or so greeting dealers and collectors, many whom I've come to know the past 15 years. Since my collecting occasionally follows the direction of "accumulating", my tour around the bourse can be a humorous adventure! I don't collect Commemorative coins, yet my first step was to view several high grade certified half dollars. My eye seems to go in directions guided by an "inner compass" with an affinity for attractive, original appearing coins. So, I find myself looking at and examining coins that I personally find attractive – irregardless of my intent to "collect" them.

Today I had a few notes to sell – and in the process, noticed likely coins in several cases. As is often the case on a busy bourse, I needed to return when specific dealers were not busy with existing customers. The past four or five years I have been leisurely forming an AU Barber dime set – P-mints in CHOICE AU. I have most of the dates and am keeping my eyes peeled for duplicates. Today I found a 1902-P dime in very lustrous AU, which I was able to buy for "common date" money. Thanks to the good ol "grey sheet"! This was the first really nice AU 1902-P dime that I have seen at a small coin show.

A 1904-P dime in choice EF came to me for less than grey sheet bid. Whatta deal! Rounding out my Barber acquisitions was a very nice 1911-S quarter, in Fine-15 also at a cheap price.

I will have my eyes peeled for a choice AU 1895-P dime at the ANA Convention. I'll also be looking for O-mint Barber quarters in Fine. I will be attending the annual BCCS meeting and look forward to meeting many of you Barber enthusiasts! See you in Portland, OR, August 5-9, 1998! ❖



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GRADING BARBERS

.....
By David Lawrence

Barbers are one of the easiest series to grade, but like many U.S. coins, the "strike" must always be taken into consideration. Coins from the New Orleans Mint are almost always weakly struck. Other factors must be considered, too. For example, there was a master hub change for Barber Quarters in 1900 and the coins subsequent to this have a weaker band beneath Liberty than the early dates of the series. Also, Barber Halves before 1900 have stronger obverses than reverse. This is especially apparent in the Good - Fine grades.

The grading descriptions detailed here are based on established industry standards. The criterion used is: "a description that will stand up in knowledgeable dealer-dealer transactions." This does not mean to imply that there are not knowledgeable collectors. However, dealers generally handle many times more coins than collectors, and are aware of the latest changes on the marketplace.

Coins wear continuously, not in discrete steps, and the different standard grades represent levels in the continuum. So called "split grades" are not a dealer device to rake in more money, but an attempt at greater precision. This is significant when the coin jumps greatly in price from one grade to the next.

When grading coins, rely on a written description. Illustrations can be helpful, but written criteria are more important because too often, the coin one has in his or her hands doesn't look exactly like the figure. Photos are particularly difficult to work with because the angle and intensity of the lighting used greatly affects the details.

Keeping all of the above in mind, the following represents a current grading guide to Barbers from AG-AU.

AG (ABOUT GOOD):

The rim will be worn away on both obverse and reverse sides. On the reverse it will be well into the letters. This description holds for Dimes, Quarters and Halves.

G (GOOD):

Obverse will have a full rim. Reverse rim may be weak to the tops of the letters. Coins which lack full rims on the reverse are only G4. Those with full rims on both sides are premium coins in this grade. The description applies to Dimes, Quarters and Halves, but the following points should be noted: Quarters of 1910 and later may often have obverse details of VG, but lack full reverse rims. The same is true for early Barber Halves. These coins might technically be graded VG/G4.

VG (VERY GOOD):

The obverse will show three letters of Liberty, usually the L, T & Y. Liberty's wreath will begin to show. However, coins from the New Orleans Mint are often weakly struck and may lack wreath detail at this level.

The reverse must have a full rim. See description under GOOD, above.

F (FINE):

For this grade, all three series are essentially graded by the obverse. There must be a part of every letter in LIBERTY showing. Weakness will exist in the center of the word. For Halves, the lower parts of "BER" will be weak or gone.

EXCEPTION: Halves of 1909 (all mints) are unusually strong in the word LIBERTY. If the rest of the coin is weak, especially in Liberty's wreath, the coin does not warrant a full FINE grade.

VF (VERY FINE):

This grade is determined almost exclusively from the obverse. On the obverse, "Liberty" is complete or virtually so (sometimes the left foot of R is weak in quarters). Liberty's wreath is 3/4 full, but will lack 3-dimensionality. On the reverse, in dimes, corn kernels begin to show. In quarters and halves, look for greater detail in the eagle's wings. NOTE - "O" mint coins are often weakly struck and will lack some of the detail listed here.

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XF (EXTREMELY FINE):

Obverse – the band under “Liberty” is complete for dimes, quarters before 1900, and halves. For later quarters (1900 Type II through 1916) the band often has a break in the RT region. Coins show 3 dimensionality on the forehead and Liberty’s wreath. Luster may show in the stars.

Reverse – For dimes, the corn kernels will be well defined (except some O mints). For quarters and halves, the uppermost feather of each wing will be completely outlined.

AU (ABOUT UNCIRCULATED):

Surface is important in this grade. Coins with luster and nice surfaces are AU even if some details are lacking due to strike. AU55 coins are fully lustrous and show only the slightest friction.

Obverse – The hair above Liberty’s forehead shows detail. Unless dark or harshly cleaned, there should be mint luster in the stars and field.

Reverse – Details are sharp unless poorly struck. For quarters and halves, the eagle’s wing tips are complete. Luster should be present as described above.

For most of us, dealers and collectors alike, the pursuit of Barbers represents a considerable investment in time and money. Working together as a society, we have a golden opportunity to manage our investment to a successful outcome by living up to these standards at all times. It is truly up to each of us. ❖

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S - 110

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O - 21

S - 64

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O - 10

S - 9

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1896 O - 20

S - 58

1897 O - 54

S - 105

1898 O - 16

S - 9

1899 S - 10

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1901 S - 14

1903 O - 5

1904 O - 8

S - 14

1905 P - 9

O - 11

1906 S - 6

1914 P - 23

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1893-S Dimes with double struck mint marks.
Photo's courtesy of Mike Jurek



BARBER BITS

1895-O Dime, XF-40

Photo's courtesy of Larry Carr



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